

progress of navigation and maritime discovery, and above all, as a Life of Magellan, is clear, capable, and thoroughly good. This is not, of course, saying that we are prepared to accept all the author's conclusions. The history of Magellan's youth is obscure; and though Dr. Guillemard makes out a very plausible account of his hero's career in India, under Almeida and Albuquerque, it must be borne in mind that much of it is inductive, or supported by purely circumstantial evidence, which may not, in all cases, be considered conclusive. His account of the mutiny at Port St. Julian is, on the whole, very good, but it seems to us too apologetic in its tone. A man who would have hesitated about cutting down a mutineer would not have been the man for such achievements as Magellan's or as Francis Drake's; and the deed itself is in accordance with the rule of every military service, whether in the sixteenth or the nineteenth century.

The question whether Magellan was truly the discoverer of the straits, or whether he was merely the follower of some unknown predecessor, has been often discussed; and the answer to it must depend on the estimate which each one forms of the value of the pre-Magellanic maps. Dr. Guillemard states the case very fairly, and at considerable length, and concludes that "On the whole, the balance of evidence is in favour of a more or less inexact knowledge of the existence of some Antarctic break in the vast barrier which America opposed to a western passage." Others might read the evidence differently, and think that the early maps, on which Dr. Guillemard lays some stress, confuse guess-work with observation in an inextricable manner. For ourselves, we find it impossible to accept as reasonable proof of a former knowledge of the Straits of Magellan a map which shows a passage between the continent of South America and another continent, named "*Brasilia Inferior*," in about the latitude of 40 deg. S., which shows also a well-defined passage separating North from South America, in the neighbourhood of the attempted canal, and North America itself as only the largest of a group of islands, comprising Hispaniola, Cuba, and the isles of Japan, with open sea to the north.

One point which Dr. Guillemard brings out very clearly is that, notwithstanding the national jealousies and disputes which sprang out of the results of the circumnavigation, the Spaniards had very little to do with its success. Not only Magellan himself, but all the pilots and several of the captains of ships, were Portuguese; the gunners were Flemings or Italians, as, indeed, they continued to be in the Spanish navy. The great gun was long considered by the Spaniards a weapon unbecoming a gentleman and a soldier, and though America was discovered and the route to the Pacific traced under the Spanish flag, it was in spite of, rather than by the assistance of, Spanish officers or Spanish seamen.

A FLOWERY LAND.

THREE YEARS IN WESTERN CHINA. A Narrative of Three Journeys in Ssu-ch'uan, Kuei-chow, and Yunnan. By Alexander Hosie. London: George Philip & Son. 1890.

WE hear rumours occasionally of the decadence of British trade in the East, and of the imperative necessity which exists for providing new markets for the merchandise of Manchester and Sheffield. If this be so, the work before us furnishes news which will gladden the hearts of desponding merchants. According to the author, there is to be found behind the mountains which separate Eastern from Western China a region which is rich in goods for exportation, and greedy of imports. The inhabitants are wealthy, the soil is fertile, and the climate is enjoyable. But from all accounts this highly favoured land is like the bough richly loaded with delicious fruit, which was hung over the head and out of the reach of Tantalus. There it lies, but it is next to impossible to get at it. The only way

of reaching it from Eastern China is by the river Yang-tzū, and that river runs for a hundred miles to the east of the desired region so disturbed a course that merchants may well hesitate to adventure valuable goods by so dangerous a route. The rapids to the westward of Ichang, the point of departure for Western China, are so studded with rocks and beset with eddies that the native crafts are towed up them only with infinite labour, and frequently suffer shipwreck and loss on the voyage. Mr. Hosie travelled over these troubled waters, and though he escaped serious damage he encountered the usual number of adventures by the way. As an illustration of the precipitous fall of the water over the rapids, he tells us that, having surmounted one, he turned to watch the downward-bound junks disappearing over it, and that they "seemed to be passing with their human freights into eternity."

But having arrived at Ch'ung-ch'ing his instinct for travel tempted him to make the expeditions through the provinces of Kuei-chow, Yunnan, and Ssu-ch'uan, which are described in the present work. On these journeys, though he suffered no such peril as that which he encountered on the Yang-tzū, he met with much discomfort and inconvenience. The inns at which he was compelled to lodge were phenomenal in their dirt and squalor, and fully justified the following lines which he found scrawled in Chinese on the walls of his bedroom:—

"Within this room you'll find the rats
At least a goodly score;
Three catties each they're bound to weigh,
Or e'en a little more.
At night you'll find a myriad bugs,
That sting and crawl and bite;
If doubtful of the truth of this,
Get up and strike a light."

But in spite of every obstacle, he completed the journeys which he had mapped out for himself, and in course of time he gathered much valuable information on the products of the country and the prospects of trade. The poppy he found growing everywhere, and the manufacture of opium forms a busy industry among the people. Being abundant and cheap, it is smoked by all sorts and conditions of men—and of women. But it is noticeable that among the well-fed and well-clothed people of Western China its effects are not nearly so deleterious as they are among the struggling populations of the Eastern provinces. Not content with gathering the juice from the skins of the capsules, the people extract a sweet cooking-oil from the seeds, and with the seeds themselves make cakes, which are much esteemed. Waste is abhorrent in the eyes of a Chinaman. There is nothing that he does not turn to account. Even the refuse from barbers' shops is used to enrich the soil, and in Western China a useful purpose is found for birds' feathers in preserving the crops which the soil is taught to yield. There being no hedges by the sides of the roads, the passing animals are apt to browse on the sprouting corn in the fields on either side, and as a remedy against this trespass the farmers scatter feathers among the crops, which prevent even the most hungry beasts from tasting the green blades.

The conversion of the inner bark of the *Boehmeria nivea* into grass-cloth, the extraction of salt from the wells, the manufacture of brick tea for consumption by the Tibetans, the preparation of white wax, and the cultivation of the soil, are among the more important industries of the people; while in Yunnan silver and copper are produced in such large quantities as to give employment to crowds of miners, and to yield large incomes to the official managers and directors. Unquestionably Mr. Hosie is right in believing that this part of the country offers a rich market for foreign trade, and we cordially agree with him in desiring to see an available route opened to it. Whether the Yang-tzū will ever be made to afford an easy access remains to be seen. At present the prospect is not promising, as the rapids in its course present almost as many

obstacles as the road from Bhamo to Yunnan Fur which has been pronounced on authority to be impracticable for all but mules and foot passengers. Other routes will doubtless be found in course of time. Meanwhile we have the curious spectacle of France, which has practically no commerce to serve, establishing, at a great expenditure of energy and money, a line of steamers up the Red River from Tonquin to Yunnan, while we, to whom, we are told, an extension of our Eastern trade is of vital importance, stand expectant by.

The physical features of the country through which the author travelled are as interesting as its products; and if Mr. Hosie's style of writing were only a little clearer than it is, his readers would be better able to appreciate the beauties of the scenery, and the strange vagaries of nature which he met with, than we fear his present work will enable them to do.

DEFENCE WORKS.

FORTIFICATION: its Past Achievements, Recent Development, and Future Progress. By Major G. Sydenham Clarke, C.M.G., Royal Engineers. London: Murray. 1890.

THIS work, although apparently intended by the author to be regarded as a homogeneous whole, is composed of two treatises, the first of which deals with permanent fortification generally, the second with permanent fortification applied to the defence of coasts. In the former, the author appears as a destroyer of the old faith and the preacher of a new gospel; he raises issues of a highly controversial character, and speaks not only dogmatically, but in a tone sometimes absolutely irritating. In the latter he puts aside theory, and, to a great extent, speculation, and, confining himself generally to the actual facts of military and naval science at the present time, is an expounder, clear, concise, and attractive, of the actual conditions under which coast warfare will now be carried on. The perusal of the first part is calculated to raise in many minds prejudice against the second; the reader is therefore recommended to begin with this at p. 149; moreover, the author's professional career gives to his views and opinions on coast defence a certain amount of weight, which hardly attaches to those he holds on permanent fortification in its other aspects.

The primary datum, the required standard for coast defences, Major Clarke tells us, can be determined only by responsible statesmen; it is a political rather than a naval and military matter, for it depends mainly on the relative naval strength of the Power to be defended and the Power, or combination of Powers, to be met. The necessary standard for a great naval Power differs widely from that of a nation weak in this respect and unable to command the approaches to its coast. When a general standard has been laid down, geographical considerations remain, in the varying distances of ports from the possible enemy's base. It would evidently be irrational to place the harbours of Australia on the same footing as Hong-Kong, or to create a Malta at Table Bay or Esquimalt. Later, it is pointed out that, although it is possible to conceive an extreme case in which the naval strength may be such as to render all coast defences superfluous, yet the existence of coast defences, even here, gives time for naval combinations, and, in this sense, reduces the number of ships which it would be necessary, in their absence, to maintain in given waters. It is for naval experts to determine, for each place, the probable strength of attack, the nature of vessels likely to be employed, the number and nature of guns needed, and the suitability of submarine mines to local conditions. Only when the above questions have been decided do the functions of the soldier begin. From the data the navy furnish him, he will be able to fix the necessary strength of the garrison, the best distribution of the guns, and the most suitable method of mounting them; and, finally, to design the necessary works,

and lay down the organisation required to render them efficient for war. That many of our existing coast defences are obsolete there can be little doubt; this is due to the great change, clearly pointed out by Major Clarke, which has taken place in the character of the vessels they were constructed to keep at bay. The old wooden three-decker, with her many guns, could pour on a land battery a greater amount of projectiles than the few guns in that battery could return; or, to meet this deluge of shot and shell, large numbers of guns were arranged in tiers in the same battery. But now ships carry few guns, and comparatively few projectiles. The development of war-ships has been in a direction which reduces their gun-power, when compared to the gun-power which can be provided even in a small coast battery. Aided by the position-finder, the shore gun in a battery—almost, if not quite, invisible from the ship, and firing from a steady carriage—has certainly the advantage over the gun afloat in every form of its employment. Major Clarke is at his best when treating on these parts of his subject. Strongly, and we think rightly, he also protests against the use of machinery for working heavy guns in shore batteries.

Ships labour also under another defect in their encounters with shore batteries. They are armoured against the direct fire from other ships, the only kind of fire to which they are exposed from them. But from coast batteries they will be assailed with high-angle fire as well, the projectiles falling on the weak decks. As to the protection of the shore batteries against attacks by landing parties, there may be some diversity of opinion: and experts may, perhaps, consider the exact form of defence advocated by Major Clarke, "dispersed batteries or *emplacements*, either provided with comparatively slight gorge defence, or protected by a field or provisional redoubt commanding these dispersed *emplacements*," as insufficient. Moreover, the typical defence advocated by Major Clarke may not be applicable to all cases and all sites; but the general views and principles put forward are sound, and certainly will help to prevent useless expenditure on stone or iron, and on the introduction of unnecessary mechanical contrivances for the working of the guns. Coast defences necessarily become obsolete a few years after their construction, owing to the changes in ships of war and the artillery they carry, and to the end of time this must be the case.

With regard to Part I., the best plan will be to state at once what it is that the arguments adduced, the instances of siege warfare quoted, and the satirical remarks indulged in on anything or anybody that stands opposed to Major Clarke's views, are intended to lead up to. To most minds, the word "fortress" implies a town or arsenal surrounded by a parapet and ditch technically termed an *enceinte*, which secure it against surprise or a *coup-de-main*; and beyond these, in order to keep the besiegers at a distance, a kind of ring of detached works, each also secured from assault by ditch and parapet, and strong enough to necessitate a siege before it can be taken. A town thus provided with strong material obstacles to the progress of besiegers, can, even with few and inferior troops, hold out for some time. The besieger cannot get through the material barrier without certain appliances which a field army usually does not carry with it on a campaign; and even if it does not attack, but simply invests, the fortress, its employment elsewhere is prevented, and time, so necessary for national defence, is gained. Now Major Clarke would, in the first place, abolish the *enceinte*, and, for the detached forts, substitute as the basis of the defence

"redoubts designed for infantry and machine guns, supported by a powerful artillery kept altogether outside of them, and supplemented by a field force for carrying on the outpost duties, and manning field defences guarding the intervals. A line of steady troops covered by a parapet, protected by such an obstacle under its fire as a sunk iron fence and a broad belt of entanglement, and amply supplied with ammunition, is now unattackable by direct assault." At p. 109 we are told—"Organisation, capable commanders, efficient armaments,

THE
When
of Se
hard
requi
obsta
belie
woul
doub
out
them
but,
of t
fortr
there
mate
ceedi
as it
two
page
ciden
addu
hims
men
each
he is
mont
pern
seem
idiot
own
Majo
quat
and
cious
prof
of n
tacti
thes
them
weigh
part
enha

1. An
2. No
3. Fr

THE
abse
very
to t
may
Chri
requ
doub
relig
with
stor
the
plet
this
they
chil
conc
of
stor
are i
ficti
The
diffi
the
prof

adequate supplies, matured preparations, well-arranged communications—these things constitute the essence of the defence; these determine the resisting power of land fortification."

This is quite true, but it is not the whole truth. When the Germans arrived before Paris on the 19th of September, 1870, there was, on the French side, hardly a vestige of the existence of any one of these requirements, but in lieu of them were the material obstacles of the forts and the *enceinte*; and we believe that in the absence of these the capital would have at once fallen. There can be little doubt that "how long" defences of any kind hold out depends far more on the men than man them than the nature of the defences themselves; but, on the other hand, to assume the certainty of the presence of capable defenders at the fortress, to rest the defence solely on their being there, and therefore to dispense with other and material means of defence, is a most hazardous proceeding. However, Major Clarke's theory deserves, as it is sure to receive, full consideration. On only two other points will we touch. In the very first page Major Clarke deprecates the way in which incidents of warfare have from time to time been adduced in support of theories. The use he has made himself of Tournay and Belfort, leads us to recommend his readers to carefully examine for themselves each of the many instances he employs in the cause he is advocating. We also think that General Brialmont, and those who put forward other systems of permanent fortification than that the value of which seems self-evident to Major Clarke, are not quite idiots, and that they might say a good deal on their own behalf. Finally, whilst cordially agreeing with Major Clarke that the Woolwich teaching is antiquated and in need of radical reform, that the linear and angular fortification exercises still a most pernicious influence on the minds of soldiers, and that the professorial view has too great weight in this branch of military art, as it has had over strategy and tactics, we nevertheless think that a separation of these different matters, and a quieter treatment of them, would not only have carried with it greater weight, but would have been more dignified on the part of the author, and at the same time have enhanced the literary value of his book.

RELIGIOUS STORIES.

1. ALISON WALSH: A Study of To-day. By Constance Evelyn. London, Edinburgh, and New York: T. Nelson & Sons. 1891.
2. NOAH'S ARK: A Tale of the Norfolk Broads. By Darley Dale. London and New York: Frederick Warne & Co. 1890.
3. FRIEND OLIVIA. By Amelia E. Barr. London: James Clarke & Co. 1890.

THE religious story, so called because of the usual absence of any religion in its principal character, is very much a product of our own times. According to the views of its author, the principal character may pass from agnosticism to Christianity, or from Christianity to agnosticism; but in either case it is required that he, or she, shall, at any rate for a time, doubt and deny. But there are two other kinds of religious story. One, which is particularly popular with the middle classes, is the didactic story, the story which deduces from impossible characters and the conventional incidents of their history a complete guide for one's own life; the middle classes love this kind of book; and, although they do not read it, they frequently buy it and give it to their young children. The other kind is historical, and is chiefly concerned with a romantic treatment of the history of some religious movement or sect. The three stories which we have selected for notice this week are instances of these three different sorts of religious fiction.

"Alison Walsh" is a story of faith and infidelity. The heroine, a clever girl, is confronted by the difficulties which in our day very often confront the young and clever. She refuses any longer to profess Christianity, but she is persuaded by a

minister to read no religious or irreligious book, with the exception of the four gospels, for a period of three months; and she also promises to make an effort to put into practice every precept they contain. At the same time two responsibilities are cast upon her—the guardianship of a child, and the care of a poor outcast woman. She finds that her beliefs, as well as her actions, are not self-regarding; and she shrinks from the responsibility of imparting her disbelief. Such a story can only end in one way. The heroine is a married Christian at the close of it. And it is noticeable that her Christianity is not the result of logical conviction, although some attempt is made by the author to face the questions and problems which are raised at the commencement of the book. In this the author is true to life. The projection of a certain kind of experience upon a certain temperament means faith, quite apart from any intellectual conviction. The tone of the teaching which the story contains is unusually high and noble. We like the heroine's refusal to teach her young charge "to do right for the sake of earthly sugar-plums." There are certain artistic faults. The dialect is poor, and some of the characters are very impossible and conventional. The boldest idea in the book—the secret of the old grandfather's money—only fails for want of adequate treatment. But the story is full of promise. It contains evidence of wide sympathies, a love of justice, and an unprejudiced and not altogether uncultured mind.

"Noah's Ark" is a story with two heroines. They were changed at nurse, and one of them is subsequently recognised by a birth-mark. And we remember that it was not very long ago that we noticed the story of "Rex Raynor," in which the same old and decrepit idea was used. Are we never to have done with these strawberry-marked people? The story also contains an elopement, which is treated after the manner of melodrama. The villain enters the heroine's house by night, and most wickedly and burglariously puts the clock on half an hour. Consequently she arrives too early at the trysting-place, and is met not by the hero but by an emissary of the villain, who leads her to place herself in the villain's power. Then comes an exciting pursuit of the villain and his awful end. It is strange, but nevertheless true, that in the midst of this story we often meet with descriptive passages of some merit, and with much information about the Norfolk Broads, which will be both new and interesting to many readers, and occasionally with the right romantic touch. A word of praise is due to the sketch of old Noah. The author is severe with modern infidelity at times; but we should say that the chief object of the story was to impress a few good lessons upon young people.

On the whole we can recommend "Friend Olivia" as a healthy and fairly interesting story. It is an account of the Quakers and Puritans of Cromwell's time, and its main fault lies in its construction. It is too long, not because it contains over four hundred pages—it might have contained twice that number and been too short—but because it is discursive and keeps the reader waiting. In other respects it shows the hand of an experienced writer, one of rather more than the usual ability. There is the usual number of minor faults. The printer was probably indulging his inveterate spite against the dead languages in—

"Cui testimonia
Danter et praeconia."

And there are, every now and then, exceedingly unhappy sentences. We know what our author means when she writes, "The pasty in his hand was only saved from a fall by his mistress's look of sharp inquiry;" but she could probably have expressed the meaning better. We feel, by the way, that it was quite wrong of us to be more interested in Anastasia De Burg than in the heroine Olivia, but we were. There is a distinct danger in allowing one's heroine to be too sinless, even in a religious story.

FIRST IMPRESSIONS.*

BIOGRAPHY is a difficult art, and Mr. McCullagh does not excel in it; at the same time, we hasten to add that he deserves a measure of credit for the plain, straightforward account which he gives of the character and career of the late "Sir William McArthur." It is an honourable and impressive story which Mr. McCullagh has to tell—a story of manly effort, abounding usefulness, widening influence, generous consideration for others, and untiring devotion to the public service. The son of an obscure Methodist minister, of Scottish extraction, William McArthur was born in 1809, at the hamlet of Malin, on the wild coast of Donegal. It goes without saying that the young woollen merchant, who began business in partnership with his brother in Londonderry in 1831, was the architect of his own fortunes. The old historic city on the banks of the Foyle was just then entering upon a period of prosperity, alike in the import and export trade, and Mr. McArthur had the energy and capacity to take advantage of such a fact. His business grew rapidly, from year to year, until in 1857 it seemed imperative for him to make London his headquarters, and for thirty busy, though scarcely eventful, years, his home was in the metropolis. Ten years after he settled in our midst, he was elected sheriff of London, and in 1868 entered Parliament as Liberal member for Lambeth. In the House of Commons, he speedily won the respect of men of all parties, and did so rather by courage and consistency, than by conspicuous ability. Sir Wilfrid Lawson dubbed him "Patron Saint of the Fiji Islands," and that friendly kind of banter points to the chief service which he rendered in Parliament. In 1880 he was elected Lord Mayor, and in 1882 was gazetted a K.C.M.G. in recognition of the "extensive services which he had rendered to Greater Britain, and his devotion to the interests of the Colonies." Sir William McArthur died suddenly in a carriage on the Metropolitan Railway on the 16th of November, 1887. He is described in this book with truth as a "catholic-spirited Christian of wide sympathies," and it is not too much to add that his consistent life and generous hand go far to explain the wide influence which he used so worthily. He was an upright, patriotic citizen, who in a quiet, unassuming, but energetic way sought the welfare of others, and the good of the nation. The Wesleyan/Methodists had no representative in municipal or Parliamentary life who was more entitled to honour than Sir William McArthur. This book, however, is somewhat disappointing; it merely skims, for the most part, the surface of Sir William's life, and recounts with laboured precision incidents and events which are already familiar to the public.

There is truth in the assertion that many of the descriptive pamphlets concerning portions of the globe in which colonisation is desired give exaggerated, and often misleading, descriptions of the resources of the country to which the emigrant is urged to turn his steps. So far as we have been able to make out—and we have scanned the book somewhat narrowly—the information furnished in the pages of "The British Colonist in North America" is disinterested and practical. The book is published anonymously, and seems to be written in a benevolent spirit as a "guide for intending emigrants." British Columbia, Manitoba, Oregon, California, New Mexico, and Texas are the chief territories passed in review, and in each case the facts stated, and the hints given, are likely to prove of real utility to prospective settlers. We hope it is not true that one out of every twenty farmers in the State of New York is hopelessly in debt, much less that this evil prevails amongst the same class to a greater or lesser extent from the Atlantic to the Pacific. There is, however, we fear only too much reason for the assertion that the "money-lenders are now the landlords of America, and their tenants are barely able to make a living and pay their high rates of interest on their indebtedness." In America, as in Europe, all the professions are greatly overcrowded, and there is not a city or town in which the supply of book-keepers and clerks is not lamentably in excess of the land. A great deal of explicit information about climate, crops, the value of land, the cost of fencing, shooting and fishing, timber and fruit, and the chances which await farmers with small capital, will be found in this useful book.

*SIR WILLIAM MCARTHUR, K.C.M.G. A Biography: Religious, Parliamentary, Municipal, Commercial. By Thomas McCullagh. Etched Portrait. London: Hodder & Stoughton. Royal 8vo. (12s. 6d.)

THE BRITISH COLONIST IN NORTH AMERICA. A Guide for Intending Emigrants. London: Swan Sonnenschein & Co., Paternoster Square. Crown 8vo.

LUXURY. By Émile de Laveleye, Professor of Political Economy in the University of Liège. (Social Science Series.) London: Swan Sonnenschein & Co. Crown 8vo. (2s. 6d.)

HOSPICE OF THE PILGRIM—THE GREAT REST WORDS OF CHRIST. By the Rev. J. R. Macduff, D.D. Edinburgh and London: Nelson & Sons. 12mo.

STORIES FROM THE BIBLE. By the Rev. Alfred J. Church. Illustrated. London: Macmillan & Co. Crown 8vo.

cameo-cutting. By John B. Marsh. "Darton's Manuals for Home Work." Illustrated. Wells, Gardner, Darton & Co. 12mo. (1s.)

Metal Turning. By a Foreman Pattern Maker. Illustrated. Whittaker & Co., London. 12mo. (3s.)

ELECTRO-MOTORS: HOW MADE AND HOW USED. By S. R. Bottone. Whittaker & Co., London. 12mo. (3s.)

M. Émile de Laveleye, with all the authority which belongs to a professor of political economy, takes up his parable against "Luxury," and seeks to prove that it is pernicious to the individual and fatal to society. He shares, in fact, the view which Joubert long ago expressed, when he declared that all luxury corrupts either the morals or the taste of the community. The definition of luxury which is given by M. de Laveleye is "anything which does not answer to our primary needs, and which, since it costs much money to buy, and consequently much labour to produce, is only within reach of the few." The extreme of luxury he regards as that which destroys the product of many days of labour, without bringing any rational satisfaction in return. Luxury, he argues, may be considered from three different points of view—as a problem of personal morality, as a question of economics, and as a matter with which right and justice are intimately concerned. M. de Laveleye does not advocate sumptuary laws, but he tells us that he rejoices when he sees a country like Norway, or the mountain cantons of Switzerland, where no one buys diamonds, but everyone has sufficient means to buy the necessities of life. He argues that luxury not only arrests the accumulation of capital, but also calls into play less labour, and that of a more precarious and irregular kind, than the production of useful commodities. The burden of the book is perhaps gathered up in the words "true economic science is in complete agreement with true morality," and that is a statement which we are not prepared to gainsay. The chapters on luxury and the ideal life of the individual, and luxury in relation to the prosperity of nations, are perhaps the most remarkable parts of a singularly outspoken even if one-sided book.

Devotional manuals abound, but amongst the growing number we have seen few more beautiful or deeply spiritual volumes than "The Hospice of the Pilgrim," by the Rev. J. R. Macduff, D.D. The centre idea of the book, as well as its title, was suggested to the author by memories of the hospices which provide shelter and rest for storm-beaten or belated travellers on the higher and more perilous passes of Switzerland and Italy. Dr. Macduff's modest work is the outcome of ripe Christian experience, and is written with a deep knowledge of the needs of the human heart as well as with great catholicity of spirit and charm of style.

"Stories from the Bible" is a title which requires no explanation. There are plenty of feeble, well-intentioned books for boys and girls bearing similar titles, but all who are acquainted with the finished and conscientious literary workmanship which mark the stories of Greece and Rome which Mr. A. J. Church has re-told for the benefit of young readers, will look with confidence for a handling of the Old Testament narratives, distinguished by reverence and skill. Mere word-painting is of course conspicuous by its absence. Omissions are made with judgment, and explanations are given with care and conciseness. The language of Scripture has been closely followed, and the illustrations are of more than ordinary artistic merit.

The art of "Cameo-Cutting" in shell—unlike that in precious stones—is of so recent a date that the publication of a practical treatise on the subject cannot be deemed superfluous. The Babylonians and Phœnicians were cunning workmen in precious stones, but they knew nothing of the adaptability of the conch-shell in cameo-cutting. It was not until 1820 that this branch of the art arose in Italy, and only in recent years has it been practised in England. Extremely beautiful results have been obtained, and cameo-cutting in shell is rapidly coming into vogue with amateurs. In this little book Mr. Marsh explains the best methods of acquiring so graceful an accomplishment, and gives a number of practical hints of real value.

Brief books by experts on "Metal-Turning" and "Electro-Motors" have reached us, and in each case they abound in hints which amateurs and practical men alike are sure to prize. Mr. Bottone is an authority on all that pertains to practical electricity, and the foreman pattern-maker who is responsible for the companion volume can claim nearly thirty years' experience in engineers' workshops. Both books are plentifully illustrated with useful diagrams, and in each case a real mastery of the details and difficulties of the subject is apparent on almost every page.

NOTICE.

EDITORIAL COMMUNICATIONS

should be addressed to "THE EDITOR," and Advertisements to "THE MANAGER," at 115, Fleet Street, E.C.

The Editor cannot return Manuscripts which are sent to him unsolicited.

ADVERTISEMENTS

should be received not later than THURSDAY morning.

Applications for copies of THE SPEAKER, and Subscriptions, should be sent to CASSELL & COMPANY, Limited, La Belle Sauvage, London, E.C.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION BY POST—

Yearly	...	...	...	...	...	...	£1 8s.
Half-yearly	...	...	...	...	...	...	14s.
Quarterly	...	...	...	...	...	...	7s.

THE SPEAKER

SATURDAY, JANUARY 17, 1891.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS.

WE have good reason for saying that the political situation, so far as the Home Rule party is concerned, is very much better than it is generally supposed to be. The announcement in the *Star* on Wednesday that MR. PARNELL had finally abandoned all intention of resuming the leadership of the Home Rule party is, we believe, true—and true even in a wider sense than most persons imagine. MR. PARNELL knows that his continued leadership is absolutely hopeless; that if he were to insist upon remaining at the head of the party, he would simply please the enemies of Ireland and alienate all its friends, and that no Irishman who enjoys the confidence of his fellow-countrymen would be found standing beside him in the struggle. The stories regarding the Boulogne conferences are almost entirely false, and are unquestionably entirely misleading—the invention, chiefly, of sensational newsmongers. We regret that MR. PARNELL'S conduct should have afforded any justification for these stories; but we believe that when the full truth is made known it will be found that the great crisis in Irish affairs has been settled in a manner which does credit to those who have had to carry out a very difficult and painful task.

THE first place in the events of the week must be given to the thaw which on Tuesday set in at last in good earnest. The temperature rose between 1 a.m. on Monday and the same hour on Tuesday some seventeen degrees. It was bad news for the skaters, and good news for the rest of the world. In London, in particular, this beneficent change in the weather brought deliverance from death to not a few, and escape from absolute misery to thousands. On Monday, when the Thames, as low down as London Bridge, was choked with great masses of floating ice, the Slum Sisters, if we may believe the *Pall Mall Gazette*, had been praying in every house they entered for "the thaw." On Tuesday, when the iron grasp of the great frost had been relaxed, the poor of the East End seemed to awake to a new life. Their sufferings for more than six weeks had been intense. How many brave men and women, battling with the hardships of life, had fallen in the fight during that time, none can ever know. But the mortality has been great, and the suffering terrible. Even now the winter is clearly not over, for we have had renewed frosts—happily slight in character—and several snowfalls since the breaking-up of the great frost. But we may fairly hope that the worst is over.

THE fight at Hartlepool has been waged with vigour during the week. It is unfortunate that the struggle should have been made to turn so largely upon personal rather than upon political issues; but for this fact the Unionist candidate and his friends are alone to blame. Having found a local candidate of quite unusual strength, the Tories have exerted themselves to make that personal strength tell as much as possible, whilst placing in the background those national issues which they profess to regard as of supreme importance. Some of the weapons, too, with which SIR WILLIAM GRAY and his friends have fought have been distinctly unfair. We place these facts on record now, in view of the possible triumph of the Tory candidate—a triumph which no

honest man will be able to attribute to any growth of opinion in favour of the Ministry and its policy. On Saturday MR. GLADSTONE addressed a letter to MR. FURNESS, the Liberal candidate, in which, after referring to the action of the Irish Parliamentary party in deposing MR. PARNELL, and to the "odious system of coercion," he declared that the time had come for pressing for the adoption of a reform of the registration laws, by which the present delays in putting duly qualified persons on the register would be avoided, and no man would be allowed to have more than one vote.

IN some quarters this letter has been hailed as tantamount to an abandonment of Home Rule. Home Rule has been so often "abandoned," according to the declaration of Tory writers, that it is hardly necessary to point out the absurdity of this charge. The loyalty of the English Liberals to the Home Rule cause can only be affected by one thing—the deliberate assumption by the Irish members of an attitude of open hostility to English Home Rulers. Unless and until that revolutionary change on the part of the Irish representatives takes place, there will certainly be no abandonment of Home Rule on the part of the Liberals of Great Britain. But the demand for that reform of the electoral laws which is needed to give the nation full control over its own representative Chamber, is one which can be put forward independently of any other political cry whatever. To say that we are giving up the object for which we are contending, because we are making this attempt to reform an antiquated and clumsy system devised in the interests of class and privilege, is as absurd as it would be to charge a general in the field with retreating before the enemy because he called upon his troops to sharpen their swords.

MR. MORLEY has been the chief speaker of the week. We have discussed elsewhere the principal points of his first speech at Newcastle, in which he simply adhered to the old lines of the Home Rule policy represented by MR. GLADSTONE. The complaints heard in some quarters as to there being "nothing new" in what he said strike us as more than a little unreasonable. He certainly did not go to Newcastle to formulate a new policy. His purpose was to show that the storm which has raged during the last six weeks has not in the slightest degree affected the real merits of the old policy—in other words, that the Liberal movement in favour of Home Rule is founded upon the rock and not upon the sand. His tone towards MR. PARNELL was free from anything like acerbity, though his repudiation of MR. PARNELL'S representation of his words and acts was clear and decisive.

SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT has spoken out on the Irish Question in a letter to a correspondent. His letter amounts to much the same thing as MR. MORLEY'S speech. The fate of Home Rule is at present in the hands of Irishmen. If they stand by the cause, and resist MR. PARNELL'S attempt to drag Ireland into the abyss into which he himself has fallen, all will be well. If, on the other hand, the Irish people take the advice of LORD SALISBURY and the *Times*, and retain MR. PARNELL, Home Rule is lost. The letter is written with the force and clearness usual in SIR WILLIAM'S utterances, and